

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 9, 15 and 19-24 are pending, Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 18 having been canceled and Claims 19-24 having been added by way of the present amendment. New Claim 19 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 2, new Claim 20 is a combination of original Claims 7 and 8, and new Claim 21 is a combination of original Claims 13 and 14. Claims 3, 9 and 13 have been amended to respectfully depend from new Claims 19, 20 and 21. New Claims 22, 23 and 24 are respective combinations of Claims 1 & 4, 7 & 10, 13 & 16. Therefore, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masatoshi (JP 2000-11406, hereinafter “Masatoshi”), and Claims 2-4, 8-10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masatoshi in view of Keiji (JP 2004-307951, hereinafter “Keiji”).

As each of Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is moot.

The rejection of original Claims 2-4, 8-10 and 14-16 (now Claims 19-24) is based on the combination of Masatoshi in view Keiji. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as Keiji is not prior art with regard to the present patent application. The present application is a National Stage filing of PCT/JP04/05174, which has an International priority date of April 9, 2004, which is before the November 4, 2004 publication date of JP 2004-307951. Consequently, Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 14 and 16 have been re-written in independent form as Claims 19-24. Therefore, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal

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allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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